

February 5, 2006

Rules and Regulations  
Federal Communications Commission

To whom it may concern:

I urge the Commission to set aside any changes to the Amateur bandwidth rules. This is presumably in response to the "Expanded SSB" mode which is gaining popularity.

I feel this is just another mode of operation just as any digital mode. In addition, it uses less bandwidth than the accepted AM mode.

Further, it goes against the Amateur's stated purpose in Part 97, Sec. 97.1, *Basis And Purpose*, paragraphs (b), (c), & (d) as illustrated below (with emphasis):

(b) Continuation and extension of the amateur's proven ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art.

(c) Encouragement and improvement of the amateur service through rules which provide for advancing skills in both the communication and technical phases of the art.

(d) Expansion of the existing reservoir within the amateur radio service of trained operators, technicians, and electronics experts.

Also, Sec. 97.307 Emission *standards*, states (with emphasis):

(a) No amateur station transmission shall occupy more bandwidth than necessary for the information rate and emission type being transmitted, in accordance with good amateur practice.

With recognition of "Expanded SSB" as another mode of communication, it would conform to this rule.

I would like it to be known I currently do not take part in "Extended SSB" communication, however, I support their efforts. As stated earlier, I believe this to be another mode of operation (I can remember when the Amateur Community

was against Single Sideband). Additionally, with more Amateurs becoming “appliance operators” due to the complexity of the state of the art radio equipment, this give us a means of experimentation and advancement as put forth in Sec. 97.1.

With the shrinking interest of Amateur Radio due to competing technologies, “Expanded SSB” may also open an avenue for young men and women to meld their interest into our field.

In conclusion, I urge the Commission to dismiss any plans to change the Rules regarding bandwidth, and leave it to Gentleman’s Agreement in a Band Plan.

Respectfully yours,

John McGovern, N9RF  
19203 Collins Rd.  
Marengo, IL 60152